

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, the decline of trust in government and other institutions in the United States over the past 30 years has long been documented.

Young people float through an age of disillusionment while older people survive on comparisons with yesterday.

The credibility gap affects Americans of all ages and divides generations, while mistrust infects a virus in marriage, friendship, as well as business and international relations.

The psalmist tells every believer it is better to place our trust in You, O Lord, than to trust in our own strength or trust in weapons or people of power.

Since You alone are eternal faithfulness, send forth Your spirit and renew this Nation, that we may again become trustworthy people, bringing hope to a fearful world.

Let the rebuilding of trust begin here. Lord, touch the Members of the House of Representatives, that they may be men and women of renewed integrity and solidarity.

Step by step, may human vulnerability be turned into virtue as all work to strengthen relationships that will bind people in solid faithfulness both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JEFF MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

CORPORATE AND AUDITING ACCOUNTABILITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, the economy is on the rebound. Most of our key economic indicators are showing good news, but one thing is hanging heavy on the economy. The collapse of Enron has shaken America's faith in American corporations and accounting practices. Even the stock market is suffering because of this.

Congress needs to address this. This week we will be voting on the Corporate and Auditing Accountability, Responsibility, and Transparency Act. This bill will improve corporate responsibility, reform accounting oversight, and increase corporate disclosure.

Americans need to know that the companies they are investing in are reporting their finances honestly. Americans need to know that their finances will be protected, and Americans need to know that they can diversify their 401(k)s so they can protect themselves from investments that do not do as well as expected.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to pass this important bill and tell every American that we care about honesty and integrity than we care about their retirement.

SHIPPING NUCLEAR WASTE TO YUCCA MOUNTAIN

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, Congress will soon vote on whether to send nuclear waste to a scientifically unsound and leaky repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The Department of Energy has tried to hide how they plan to ship at least 77,000 tons of toxic nuclear waste through 45 States. There may be more than 108 shipments, not to mention as many as 3,000 shipments by barge.

The real dirty secret that the DOE has tried desperately to ignore is the immense vulnerability of these transports. More than 123 million people live in the 703 counties along DOE's proposed highway routes and 106 million people live in counties along DOE's rail routes. Even routine radiation from the casks, given off while passing on the highway, would be a health risk for people living and working in the vicinity of the transportation routes.

The threat of terrorism is more real for Americans more now than ever. At every stage of transport, nuclear waste would be vulnerable to a devastating terrorist attack that would result in massive civilian casualties and severe financial loss.

The risks associated with transporting nuclear waste are clear. The question is, are we willing to play nuclear roulette with our Districts? Say no and oppose Yucca Mountain.

PENSACOLA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the students and faculty of Pensacola Catholic High School. For 7 years, students at Pensacola Catholic High have embraced Make A Difference Day. Make A Difference Day was created by USA Weekend Magazine and is one of the most encompassing national days of helping others, a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors.

They have achieved the astronomical participation rate of 80 percent. They have made it their annual mission to help the elderly in Pensacola maintain their homes and to pitch in around the community. On October 27th, 2001, 450 students fanned out around Pensacola and painted four houses and an elementary school, built nine picnic tables, cleaned two neglected cemeteries, weeded a community rose garden, spruced up a homeless shelter's playground, and made \$1,300 at a car wash for the school's Make A Difference Day scholarship fund.

The students were recognized as one of the ten national honorees by the USA Weekend Magazine's Make A Difference Day. The students will receive a \$10,000 Make A Difference Day award, funded by Newman's Own, and have selflessly donated it to Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida.

I commend these selfless students for all they have done to the betterment of Northwest Florida.

LUDWIG KOONS

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, about 1,000 children a year are taken outside the borders of the United States. These are noncustodial parental abductions. We have thousands of them across our country, and I urge each of my colleagues to help join that fight to bring them home.

One such case is that of Jeff Koons, who I have been talking about now for several months. The last time I talked about it, he had been awarded custody by the courts in New York, but soon thereafter his ex-wife filed for custody and a divorce suit in Italy. Well, he went along with that.

He argued the matter in Italy that New York laws should be followed. He even went along and hired psychiatrists to evaluate both himself and his ex-wife to see who would be fittest of the parents. Lo and behold, after a year of investigation, the Italian court-appointed psychiatrist determined that custody should be granted to Mr. Koons.

On February 28, 1998, a panel of judges of the First Section of the Rome